



MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND
QUESTIONING YOUTH

Working for a Commonwealth where all youth thrive



Commission Member Application

The Massachusetts Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth is established by law as an independent agency of the Commonwealth to recommend and advocate to all branches of state government effective policies, programs, and resources for LGBTQ youth to thrive. Commission members work with state agencies, the Legislature, and school and community partners to address the social, economic, and health disparities affecting LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts. Our 50 members are responsible for accomplishing the work of the Commission and are expected to be active participants during their two-year term, which begins in January.

We invite you to join us by filling out this application. Interviews of candidates will take place in October, with final determinations made in December. Applications are due no later than **September 30, 2016 to our Commission Coordinator, Landen Motyka, at landen.motyka@state.ma.us.**

Section 1: Contact & Demographic Info

Please only list information if it is okay to contact you at that location.

Name: _____
Pronouns: _____
Languages you speak: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
May we leave identifying voicemails at this number? ____Yes ____No
Email: _____

Section 2: Commission Membership

There are two ways to become a Commission member: (1) applying independently; or (2) being appointed to the Commission by an appointing organization. Members who are appointed by one our appointing organizations are referred to as “appointed members”. Members who apply independently are referred to as “regional members”. Regional members and appointed members share the same opportunities and responsibilities within the Commission.

Have you been chosen by an appointing organization? ____Yes ____No
If yes, which one? _____

Section 3: Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

Due to our status as independent state agency our members are considered special state employees, and must comply with Conflict of Interest laws, and in some cases may need to disclose relevant information. Answer the following questions to determine if there may be any conflict of interest by accepting a seat on the commission. Please note that answering “yes” does not indicate that you are unable to serve on the Commission. If you have any questions, we recommend contacting the “Attorney-of-the-Day” at the MA State Ethics Committee Legal Division at (617) 371-9500/(888) 485-4766.

Have you ever been employed by the federal, state, or local government? If yes, please list positions, periods of employment and dates.

Have you ever been elected or appointed to public office (including other Boards and/or Commissions) in Massachusetts? If yes, please list and include dates:

Have you been or are you now a registered lobbyist? If yes, please list the principals you represent(ed) and dates:

Do you currently have any family members* who are employed by the State Government in Massachusetts? (*family member is defined as partner/spouse, parents, children or siblings and partner/spouse’s parents, children or siblings.)

Please list any other possible conflicts of interest you might have below.

Section 4: Commission Member Expectations

Active participation by all members is essential for the Commission to function. We ask that applicants reflect on the following questions as well as any upcoming plans to determine whether a commitment to the Commission is right for you at this time. If you answer **no** to any of the questions below, please consider contacting us to discuss whether this opportunity is a good fit and/or for less intensive volunteer opportunities.

Our commission members serve for 2 year terms (for example: a term beginning in January 2017 would end in December 2018). Are you able to make this commitment? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If no, please explain what barriers you foresee that may impact your participation.

Members are expected to attend all six full commission meetings each year, generally held from 6 – 8pm during a weekday. These meeting dates will be scheduled in advance and provided at the beginning of your term. Are you able to make this commitment? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If no, please explain what barriers you foresee that may impact your participation.

Members are required to join at least one committee, which involves attending one meeting a month (in addition to full commission meetings), and completing some tasks between meetings. Are you able to make this commitment? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If no, please explain what barriers you foresee that may impact your participation.

One goal of the Commission is to advance racial justice in all aspects of our work, which requires an active commitment from all members, particularly our white members. Members are expected to participate in activities such as a racial justice training, affinity groups, and reading materials sent out by our coordinator. Are you able to make this commitment? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If no, please explain what barriers you foresee that may impact your participation.

The Commission provides reasonable accommodations to anyone who has difficulty attending meetings due to financial constraints, disability, illness, or location. Is there anything you need in order to fully participate in meetings?

Section 5: Areas of Interest

The Commission is made up of four different committees: Safe Schools, Government Relations, Community Relations, and Operations. All members are required to join at least one committee, and are welcome to join or collaborate with other committees. Please indicate which committee(s) you are interested in working with.

Safe Schools

Oversees operations of the Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students; which runs the GSA Network, and provides technical assistance and training services to public schools in Massachusetts. This committee provides occasional opportunities to work directly with LGBTQ youth.

☐ **Interested** ☐ **Not Interested** ☐ **Unsure**

Government Relations

Works with state agencies and legislators to advocate for LGBTQ young people, host events, and informs our annual policy recommendations. This committee typically does not work directly with LGBTQ youth.

☐ **Interested** ☐ **Not Interested** ☐ **Unsure**

Community Relations

Forms working relationships with community partners, organizes listening sessions and convenings, and represents the Commission at community events. This committee provides occasional opportunities to work directly with LGBTQ youth.

☐ **Interested** ☐ **Not Interested** ☐ **Unsure**

Operations

Oversees the Commission's day-to-day operations (for example budget management and membership). This committee typically does not work directly with LGBTQ youth.

☐ **Interested** ☐ **Not Interested** ☐ **Unsure**

In addition to these committees, there are opportunities for leadership development, such as chairing a committee, joining the executive committee, and/or sitting as the vice chair or chair of the commission. Are you interested in leadership development opportunities? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Section 6: Questions

To help us get to know a little bit more about you, your interests, and your work, please answer the following questions in two paragraphs or less.

Why are you interested in serving on the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth at this time?

What skills, knowledge, or expertise would you contribute to the Commission? Please feel free to submit a resume or supplemental materials.

Do you belong to other community organizations, committees, or boards? What role do you play in their work?

What are some values and priorities that are of special importance to you, and how do you feel these relate to advocating for and with LGBTQ youth?

People hold many intersecting identities including race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, class, and more. How might your identities impact your work with LGBTQ youth?

Is there anything else you'd like for us to know about you?

Section 7: References

Please provide us with the names of three people (adult or youth) who can tell us why you would be a good fit for the Commission and the best way (or ways) to get in contact with them. Do not list any of your relatives.

Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Name: _____

Contact information: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth!

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status or disability.